Someday, residents living along the murky Rouge River may be able to point to a clean resource.

But making it happen will take cooperation and commitment from the 35 communities that border the Rouge's three branches, along with a central coordinator to organize pollution cleanup activities, according to a state Department of Natural Resources official.

Department of Natural resources official.

Cul.

Cul. of things that can be done now.

THE STRATEGY would involve such

measures as:

• Placing the DNR at the lead to direct improvements, list remedies and coordinate the cleanup.

• Finding for permanent listing all the saver lines and pipes that discharge into the river.

• Elliminating more than 180 combined sanitary/storm-sewer discharge points that dump raw sewage and industrial waste into the river during high water.

Schramek is detailing a work of the control of the co

distrial waste into the river camp high water.
Schramek is detailing a work plan for the cleanup. It will be presented to the WRC Sept. 19 in Delia Township, west of Laning, WRC's seven mem-bers include representatives of the de-partments of Natural Resources, Agri-culture; Public Health and Transporta-tion. 38 main concern is water poliu-tion, and it issues water discharge permits.

tion. 35 main concern is water discharge permits.

By the WRC's request, the plan will include a section detailing community involvement. Central to this new stab at cleaning the Rouge is community support and input in the 487-square-mile Rouge basin.

'It will be their (communities) responsibility to develop a correctional plan and submit it to the state to coordinate with other communities. Our (DNR'S) role will be to coordinate, Schrameck said.

BUT SOME community spokeper-sons believe local involvement is need-ed even earlier — at the development

stage.

Karen Gottlieb, executive director of
the 19-community-member Rouge River Watershed Council, said she urged
the WRC at its last meeting to seek
community involvement in the devel-

community involvement in the devel-oping the strategy.
"My contention was you need to have the people who are implementing the plan in on developing it," she said. "You

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can't just hand them a plan and expect it to be carried out."

Northyille Township Supervisor Susan J. Heintz, who chairs the watershed council, agreed.

"They carn't expect local communities to implement a state policy if they didn't have length; "Heints said.

For that reason, ahe said it was a good idea that the DNR established an advisory committee made up of Gottlieb and representatives from Wayne and Oakland counties, the Southeast Council of Governments (SEMOOG), the Detroit Water and Sewrer Department and the DNR. The committee is meeting for the second time today in EsMOOG'S Detroit offices.)

Both Gottlieb and Heintz called the strategy extremely broad in scope, though they agreed it is an important if iffirst step."

THE ROUGE River is comprised of three branches that flow through southeastern Michigan into the Detroit River. Branches of the lower, middle and upper Rouge are found in parts of Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw counties.

Wayne, Oakland and Wasnienaw counties.

According to Schrameck, the state intends to develop a computerized model of the river basin to aid in correcting pollution problems. There are all roles was for this modern of the role of the r

project, however, will need a combination of federal, state and local support.

The DNR's action is far from the
first study into the cause of pollution
to the cause of pollution
with the impetus to do anything.

"Most of the focus has been on the
Detroit swage treatment plant and
bringing it up to capacity. But now,
there are other issues. The DNR has it
as a top priority, so something has to
be done," Gottlieb said.

Schrameck said less than half of discharges into the Rouge River are from
combined sanitary/storm sewers operated by the Detroit wastewater system.
Discharges are evenly divided between
storm water and sanitary swer overflows. Industrial discharges account
for a small portion.

The sewer pipes are dispet so that
during the yater and sanitary there is
during the yater and sanitary there
during dry times. Each year, sewers
during 500 billion gallons of water into
the Rouge River and its tributary rivers and creeks.

"The river has the ability to cleanse
itself as long as you don't exceed that
capacity," he said.

A drain pipe carries an unknown substance into the

## Funds for inland lakes dry up

Thursday, August 8, 1985 O&E

State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials fear water quality in Michigan's inland lakes and streams will be jeopardized if the department's 10-year-old Self-Help Program goes unfunded.

ed.

Self-help is designed to counter a major threat to
the recreational value of Michigan's inland waters
— eutrophication.
After Oct. 1, federal funding for the Self-Help
Program expires.
EUTROPHICATION is the word experts use to
describe the gradual transition of a lake to a weedy,
algae-covered marsh. The cause is the gradual enrichment of natural waters with plant nutrients
such as phosphorous.

algae-covered marsh. The cause is the gradual enrichment of a natural waters with plant nutrients
such as phosphorous.

"The goal of every lake is to become a marsh. It's
a natural aging process," said DNR inland water
expert Howard Wandell.

He continued "Man accelerates the process by nutrient loading with improperly treated waste water
discharges and agricultural run-off."

Wandell contends that the best way to alow the
eutrophication process is to get rid of nutrient loading sources. Finding those sources is the tough part.
According to Wandell, the DNR Self-Help Program
is one aid in the flight.

"THE INTENT of the Self-Help Program is to
correct a long-term monitoring problems," says
Dick Mikula, who heads the monitoring effort. "The
state tries to monitor all lakes in Michigan but is
not meeting that goal."

Mikula noted that over the last 10 years, 650
lakes of more than 50 acres in size have been sampled at least once. "The Self-Help Program provides a much needed means of monitoring water
quality in a wider range of public and non-public
lakes."

Under the program, lake property owners sample
their own lakes on a yearly basis. Throughout the
summer montls, participants take transparaercy
readings of their lake using a DNR supplied Secchi
disc. The readings are compiled by the water de-



partment and used as guidelines for evaluating changes in water quality.

ACCORDING to Mikula, the benefits of program

rticipation are numerous:

Major sources of nutrient loading can be iden-

"Communities in the program for several years will see trends," said Mikula. "More transparency (water clarity) means greater water quality. Decreasing transparency means declaining water quality, and when this happens we try to seek caus-

Mikula believes unless the DNR remains involved with the program, lake owners will abandon moni-toring efforts.

To obtain additional information about the Self-Help Porgram write to: Dick Mikula, Michigan De-partment of Natural Resources, Inland Lake Man-agement Unit, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing 48909.





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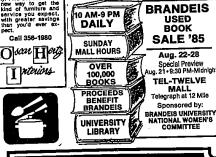
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